PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-111-83 -87 Date September 21, 1983

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE national security or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the staff on this date.

Facility: Cleveland Elec. Illuminating Perry Nuclear Power Station

Unit 1 Docket No.50-440

Perry, OH 44081

Licensee Emergency Classification: Notification of an Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency General Emergency Not Applicable

Subject: NEWS MEDIA INTEREST IN CRANE LIFTING INCIDENT

On September 15, 1983, the licensee was removing the reactor internal components from the reactor vessel where they had been placed temporarily while some work was being done in their normal storage location, the upper refueling area.

The steam dryer was removed from the vessel without incident. The moisture separator, however, had not been unbolted prior to the lifting effort, and the lifting rig broke. The cross-shaped lifting rig had previously been tested to 59 tons.

The licensee is investigating the incident and reported it to Region III (Chicago) as a potential construction deficiency (under 10 CFR 50.55e).

On September 16 the Senior Resident Inspector and an NRC structural specialist performed a visual inspection of the moisture separator, the area where the moisture separator was bolted to the core shroud in the reactor vessel, and the lifting crane. No damage was observed.

The containment crane is to be examined by the manufacturer prior to further use. A réplacement lifting rig is being obtained, and the moisture separator will be removed for further inspection. Also to be inspected are the 32 bolts which hold the moisture separator in place and the core shroud, to which the moisture separator was bolted.

According to information gathered by the Resident Inspector, contractor personnel believed the bolts were not engaged, when in fact 28 were tightened, and the remaining four bolts were loosely engaged.

There has been considerable local news media interest in the incident. Rumors circulating have suggested that the reactor vessel itself was lifted off its pedestal and that the damage will delay the completion of the project. Both rumors are untrue, and the licensee is planning to invite news media to the construction site to show them the extent of the damage -- which appears initially to be limited to the lifting rig.

Region III will continue to respond to news media inquiries.

The State of Ohio will be notified.

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Rev. 08/10/83

Cleveland Elec. Ill.

Region III was notified of this incident on September 16, 1983, as a potential construction deficiency report. This Preliminary Notification is being issued at this time because of recent news media interest. This information is current as of 10 a.m., September 21, 1983.

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